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S. HRG. 101-642

NOMINATION OF JO ANNE B. BARNHART

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED FIRST CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON THE

NOMINATION OF

JO ANNE B. BARNHART, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

APRIL 3, 1990

Printed for the use of the Committee on Finance

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

30-301 WASHINGTON : 1990

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Sales Office
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402

S361-31

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NOMINATION OF JO ANNE B. BARNHART, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1990

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC.

The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at 10:10 a.m. in room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Lloyd Bentsen (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Also present: Senators Moynihan, Bradley, Pryor, Rockefeller, Daschle, Roth, Armstrong, and Symms.

[The press release announcing the hearing follows:]

[Press Release No. H-23, Mar. 29, 1990]

FINANCE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER BARNHART NOMINATION

The Finance Committee will hold a hearing and executive session on the nomination of Jo Anne B. Barnhart to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The hearing and executive session will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 1990 at 10 a.m. in Room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The hearing was originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 1990 but had to be rescheduled after an objection on the Senate floor prevented all Senate Committees from meeting past 11 a.m. that day.

Barnhart is the Minority Staff Director of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. LLOYD BENTSEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The CHAIRMAN. This hearing will come to order.

Miss Barnhart, let me congratulate you on your nomination to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support. It is with the greatest of pleasure that we see one of our own from the Finance Committee move into one of the most important offices in the Department of Health and Human Services and indeed I think in the entire Federal Government.

The position of Assistant Secretary for Family Support was created by this committee to ensure the successful implementation of the Family Support Act of 1988, and we are certainly pleased that the President has decided to ask you to fill that position.

You bring to that office extensive administrative experience, having served, first, as Deputy Associate Commissioner and, later, as Commissioner for Family Assistance for the period 1981 to 1986,

and more recently in your role as Senator Roth's minority staff director for the Committee on Governmental Affairs. As his staff member with the responsibility for welfare issues, you have served this committee by playing a helpful role in developing the legislation creating the new jobs program and in reforming the AFDC quality control program. So it is this kind of a combination of administrative and legislative experience that we find rather unusual in the nominees that are brought before this committee. And I believe you will be an outstanding administrator of our welfare laws.

Senator Roth, let me commend you for bringing Miss Barnhart into government service. I am sure she will continue to serve the American people with the same dedication and intelligence she has demonstrated here at the Finance Committee.

Are there any comments by any members of the committee?

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW YORK

Senator MOYNIHAN. Mr. Chairman, simply to endorse all that you have said and to say how welcome Miss Barnhart is—and all the more welcome for being awaited.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BILL BRADLEY, A U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY

Senator BRADLEY. Mr. Chairman, I would simply echo both your words and Senator Moynihan's. There are a lot of important issues related to welfare reform, child support enforcement that we await your help and expertise on.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Roth, we are very pleased to have you to speak for Miss Barnhart. And I know that you miss having her on your staff, but she is going on to even further administrative experience.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM V. ROTH, JR., A U.S. SENATOR FROM DELAWARE

Senator ROTH. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have to admit that I come here with mixed feelings. As you so eloquently point out, Jo Anne Barnhart is unusually well qualified for this position. At the same time, her departure from her position as staff director of the Governmental Affairs Committee certainly is a loss to me as well as the staff. I would like to point out that Jo Anne not only served as staff director for the minority but for a brief period of time in the majority as well.

I can say without hesitation that Jo Anne Barnhart is an excellent choice. She has the skill, the drive, and as you pointed out, Mr. Chairman, the administrative experience to oversee our Nation's largest welfare and family support program.

I am not going to say everything that I have here in my prepared statement because much of it you have already pointed out, Mr. Chairman. However, I can say that during her 4-year tenure as staff director, Jo Anne has done an outstanding job of overseeing committee hearings, legislative activities, and general operations dealing with such complicated issues as IG's, Government organization and the budget process.

Initially, Jo Anne served with me from 1977 to 1981 as a legislative assistant, handling health, welfare, Social Security and labor issues. I have to point out, Mr. Chairman, that the Department of Health and Human Services seems to make a practice of stealing her from me periodically, but, hopefully, I can return the favor. In any event, she does bring a great deal of expertise and experience to the Department. Prior to joining my staff, Jo Anne worked for the Reagan administration on a study of the welfare program. As you pointed out, Mr. Chairman, she served as Associate Commissioner and Deputy Associate Commissioner for Family Assistance at Health and Human Services from 1981 to 1986, and in that capacity she ran the Nation's welfare program, AFDC, and low-income energy assistance program.

Her accomplishments at Health and Human Services did not go unrecognized. She was honored with the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award in 1985 and the Commissioner's Citation in 1984.

I might point out, Mr. Chairman, that before she joined me in Government service she served in my home town of Wilmington, DE, as the project director for SERVE nutrition program that provided 1,000 meals a day to senior citizens. So, she has really a lifetime experience in this area.

On a more personal note, I have come to respect Jo Anne as a woman of very strong character with unusually great ability. I do think that the President has made an excellent choice. And I must say it is always good to see a hometown girl make good, particularly when it is on the basis of her own ability.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Are there further questions or comments?

[No response.]

The CHAIRMAN. It looks like unanimity. [Laughter.]

Would you like to make a statement, Miss Barnhart? You are ahead of the game now, you know. [Laughter.]

STATEMENT OF JO ANNE B. BARNHART, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Ms. BARNHART. Mr. Chairman, I would certainly like to thank you and the other members of the committee for your kind words this morning, and I particularly want to thank Senator Roth for his wonderful introduction. And I also want to thank him for bringing me on his staff 14 years ago for being a constant source of support since then and, most importantly, for always having confidence in me and my ability, Thank you, Senator.

I did have a statement that I would like to make if time permits, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, of course. We would be glad to have it.

Ms. BARNHART. I am extremely pleased to be here today, and I am honored by the nomination of the President to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support. And I am particularly honored to appear before the Finance Committee to seek support for my nomination.

As I sit here, I see members who I have watched labor long and hard to strike a balance between meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizenry and our responsibility to the taxpayer. I also see staff people who I consider myself fortunate to count among my professional friends and associates. During the past 15 years, I have spent a lot of time watching this committee work on programs that, if confirmed, I would administer at the Family Support Administration.

Mr. Chairman, I am well aware of the high priority you and the other members of this committee place on public assistance programs and, in particular, the Family Support Act. I know that the President and Secretary Sullivan share that view. And that level of commitment is personally gratifying for me as I have worked on public assistance issues, as Senator Roth mentioned, as a Senate staffer for Senator Roth, and as administrator of the AFDC and low-income energy assistance programs. Most recently from my vantage point as the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee minority staff director, as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, I worked on the AFDC Quality Control provisions passed last year.

Upon confirmation, I hope and I intend to use that experience to, as they say, hit the ground running. I will work to ensure that States get the guidance and assistance they need in a timely and helpful fashion as they work toward full implementation of the Family Support Act; I will work to mobilize the dedicated Federal workers at FSA to provide the necessary human resources to meet the task; and, finally, I will work to provide the strong, compassionate leadership that the President, Secretary Sullivan and this committee expect.

The Family Support Act provides a framework that mandates dramatic and important changes in the way welfare works for America's children. It presents new challenges cast in an exciting time of change. I look forward to the opportunity to meet those challenges successfully so that we can help the families who depend on us to build a better future.

Mr. Chairman, I would be happy to try and answer any questions you or any other member of the committee might have for me at this time.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, Miss Barnhart, as I think about the wealth of experience you have had in observing the welfare system, and things that work and things that don't work, as you take on this position, what would be, say, your top three priorities?

Ms. BARNHART. Well, my first priority, Mr. Chairman, will be the implementation of the Family Support Act. And within that I think that I would find my real priorities: the implementation of the jobs provisions, which are extremely important for helping people move off welfare and break the cycle of dependency; by enforcing and working with the States on the child support enforcement provisions that provide the States additional tools to ensure that absent parents meet their obligation to their children. This is extremely important, again if we are going to help people work towards independence; and, finally, Mr. Chairman, to make sure that at the Federal level we are doing everything possible to provide the kind of guidance, the kinds of policy clarifications, the kinds of technical assistance to facilitate that process; to help remove obsta-

cles where they exist as opposed to create them and to work with the States very closely.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Barnhart appears in the appendix.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Roth.

Senator ROTH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, I would like to point out that David Barnhart is here with Jo Anne. I should also point out that Jo Anne is one of these remarkable women who is able to balance both a public career as well as a family life. She is the mother of an 18-month-old son of whom she is tremendously proud. I think Jo Ann's ability to succeed as a working mother also gives her some personal insight to the challenges faced by low-income working mothers.

I have no questions, Mr. Chairman, but I do have one submitted to me by Jack Danforth. Perhaps it could be answered in writing. It involves the demonstration program in Kansas City. Could I ask that that be submitted and she respond in writing?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes. Of course.

Senator ROTH. But that would not delay the confirmation process.

The CHAIRMAN. No, not at all.

Senator ROTH. I will so submit it.

Ms. BARNHART. I will be happy to do that, Senator. Thank you.

[The question appears in the appendix.]

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Moynihan.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Miss Barnhart, we have had a chance to visit and to talk about your new work and you know how enthusiastic I am about it and how pleased about your appointment. It detracts nothing from that point for me to point out that your post was established 14 months ago and it has been vacant for 14 months. After a generation's effort, the welfare system, our system for the support of abandoned women and children—there are a million in my State alone—we transformed that system, or so we thought. You have captured the essence of it in your statement. We put in place the Family Support Act. As I say, it took a generation to reach agreement, as it were, but in the executive branch nothing happened. Fourteen months went by. And this obviously has nothing to do with your appointment, which is very welcome, but it does say something about priorities. And the simple fact is that children on welfare are not a priority of the Department of Health and Human Services. Somehow that is becoming a Department of Health alone.

I remember speaking with the previous Secretary of HHS and saying to him, "Welfare is not a priority of your department at all. Is it?" And he acknowledged, "No, it's not." You know, it is becoming a health department, which is nothing unusual, and it is natural. But there is something about working in the welfare field which is adverse. Few people emerge from that world with their reputations intact. I hope you will.

Ms. BARNHART. I hope so too.

Senator MOYNIHAN. And you know what you are doing. You know what you are getting into.

A couple of things, though. As if in preparation for your appearance here, on the front page of yesterday's New York Times, we see a Big story. New welfare program won't make much difference, advocates say. And this morning, our very much respected journalist, Spencer Rich, describes an article by Sandy Jencks and Kathryn Edin in this new journal of liberalism, the American Prospect, which says in essence, the Family Support Act won't make any difference.

This is a pattern. For my part, I have begun to think of it as pathologic among the advocates of helping children and so forth. They will always deny that anything has been done. They will ask for more, ask what they can't get and settle for nothing. Which, by the way, is not the way the people who look after soybean interests around here behave. If they can only get half of what they want, they take the half and then they start negotiating for the other half.

But we are in the midst of a big assertion that nothing happened 2 years ago. I don't talk about the specifics involved, but there is another agenda here. It says the American society can't do anything about its real problems. And if you keep denying anything has made it possible to change it is likely that little will change and then by a circular pattern of logic you prove your case.

Do you have some sense of what I am talking about or what you are up against in that regard?

Ms. BARNHART. Yes, sir. And as you mentioned, we have talked before. As I indicated to you then, if I didn't believe that this were the most exciting time to be in welfare, and that we didn't have the real capabilities to make some dramatic changes not only in the way welfare works but in the way that America thinks about welfare, to be honest, I really wouldn't be interested in taking this job. I am firmly committed to the belief that the provisions enacted in the Family Support Act are very good places to start in changing the face of welfare in this country.

I think that some of the issues that were discussed in the newspaper articles that you mentioned really reflect the kind of natural tension that exist in public assistance programs in welfare, AFDC in particular. The whole notion of when you provide additional benefits for specified lengths of time or to individuals who have come off of welfare and those benefits end, that there may be some inducement to come back on welfare. That kind of notion, as you know better than I, sir, has been discussed and put forth as long as I can certainly remember. And I think that it is important to always be knowledgeable and aware of that particular perspective, and to take such things in consideration. But I think that if we allow those kinds of concerns about potential problems to override the actions that we are undertaking, we will never accomplish anything or go any place,

So I guess that I would say that I would be advised that those problems could exist, but I would proceed optimistically with implementation of the Act and any additional changes that are needed to make it work.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Good for you.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to have a second round if we can find the time.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, of course.

Senator Bradley.

Senator BRADLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would just like to get your own feeling on what you sense are the next steps in child support enforcement. And do you have any thoughts as to what the next steps are?

Ms. BARNHART. May I ask for a clarification, Senator Bradley? Do you mean beyond the child support effort in terms of implementing the Family Support Act?

Senator BRADLEY. No. Beyond the Family Support.

Ms. BARNHART. Beyond the Family Support Act.

I think at this point it would be premature for me to comment on that. Child support is one area that I am looking forward to learning a lot more about. I do have some background in child support, and obviously I am intensely interested in that issue, as I think that the two—jobs and child support have to work hand in hand as we move along if the program laid out in the last Congress is going to work. But it is certainly an issue that I would enjoy discussing with you in the future after I have had a little more time to see where things stand currently.

Senator BRADLEY. Well, I think that the Child Support Enforcement Commission and the report that it will come forward with, and also the issues that relate to child support between States are enormously important, and that I hope you will give some careful attention to those.

And then I would just like to echo the word that you are there, you are on the front lines. If it doesn't happen, everybody is going to look to you to know why kids aren't better off, why the efforts we made 2 years ago haven't produced some results. And I hope that you will be on top of it and I have every reason to expect you will be, and within the Administration to be a very powerful advocate for families.

Ms. BARNHART. Thank you, Senator Bradley, I appreciate that expression of confidence. And I assure you that I intend by my very presence and visibility in the Department to provide an important perspective for Secretary Sullivan and the rest of his team at HHS in terms of visibility and priority for welfare issues. Also I want to say that I too look forward to working with the Interstate Child Support Commission, and, in fact, know one of the individuals who was appointed to that commission as she is from my home State of Delaware. I realize that they were just appointed and I do look forward to providing whatever assistance I can give to them, because I agree that that interstate connection is extremely important, particularly in the transient society we live in today.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Symms.

Senator SYMMS. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I have no further questions.

Senator Moynihan.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Just one round, Mr. Chairman. And if I can I would like to just finish up on just one more.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, of course.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Again, Madam Secretary, as we will begin to call you, you speak of the priority. Would it be possible for me to ask, do you understand that the committee would naturally

wonder, "What priority?" if it took 14 months to get a person in the job? I mean, you don't have to agree with us nor even with just this member of the committee, but it is a curious priority that takes 14 months, and indeed the year and a half since the post was created. And if it was a priority, I mean a real priority, they would have had someone there on the 20th of January 1989. And, okay, we will leave that there.

There is one thing I really would like to get from you in a very clear way and I won't have any difficulty I know. You are aware, because you were involved, that as no other social legislation of our generation, the Family Support Act depended and was shaped by very careful evaluation, research, done with respect to initiatives taken by State governments. We would say over and again, this is the Governor's program. This is what the Governors say they want. And in the area of evaluation, the Manpower Development Research Corporation is one of the main centers. They look at experiments. Federalism was working. They were trying this in Wisconsin and that in Massachusetts and something else again in California, and what we seemed to have learned is what we tried to legislate.

And in that legislation, in our legislation, with that experience very much immediately in our minds, we called for a very substantial program of evaluation of what goes on here. And could you agree that this is going to be a priority for you?

And in addition, can I ask, would you pay attention to the notion of comparing States' performances, because some States are going to do better than others. Some States perform better in things like educational achievements. These are hugely varied between States. And they are varied because people behave differently in different States.

Can I get you to speak to that point?

Ms. BARNHART. Yes, sir.

First of all, as far as evaluation goes, I agree with you that careful, thoughtful and comprehensive evaluation is very important. And it is my understanding that the Department is currently involved in an evaluation contract with some outside consultants to undertake the evaluation of the Family Support Act. And I think the reason evaluation is so important is because, as you said and as we have discussed previously, so much of the Family Support Act is based on research. In fact I think you referred to it as a research based piece of legislation.

And it is very important if we are going to look at the effects of what's happened and learn from them in the future to make changes we may want to make a decade from now, or whatever, as we look back on this program.

Second, the second part of your comment deal with State to State comparisons.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Yes.

Ms. BARNHART. I don't sit here as someone from the National Governors Association today, but I feel confident that the States would want to have it pointed out that, as you know, there are various circumstances in States that sometimes account for different performance levels and different abilities to move forward with various pieces of legislation or whatever. That is not to offer an

excuse, but simply to say that I am aware of those kinds of differences.

It would be my hope to work with the States that for whatever reason seem to have sub-par performance compared to their peers, to raise that level of performance, to offer a helping hand as much as possible, and if necessary, to use the abilities that are provided in the Family Support Act to assess the penalties.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Penalties?

Ms. BARNHART. Yes, sir.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Assess penalties. If there are no penalties for poor performance there will be poor performance. And we built some penalties into the legislation and I really hope you will pursue them. And I think I heard you say you would.

Ms. BARNHART. Yes, sir, I will. If I have cause to do so I certainly will.

At this point, I would like to say that I don't think I can assume that any State is not going to live up to or meet the requirements of the Family Support Act. I can certainly use my intellect and the information that will be provided to me, if confirmed, to point out trouble spots or potential problems or problem areas in States where they may not be able to move as swiftly. That is one of the things I would like to do to prevent us getting to the point that we have to assess penalties. But if that situation does arise I certainly would—if the need does arise I certainly would do it.

Senator MOYNIHAN. Fair enough.

Then one last question if I can. May I note that the State of New York has not signed up for the JOBS program. And your position has been there for 14 months and so has the State legislature. Nothing has happened.

Let me ask you one question, not a quiz, but just to establish a point. What proportion of American children, in your estimate, will be on welfare before they reach the age of 18? Say the children born this year. What proportion do you expect to be on welfare before they are age 18?

Ms. BARNHART. Well, Senator Moynihan, I believe that at a prior hearing I heard you cite a figure of somewhere between 25 and 30 percent. Is that correct?

Senator MOYNIHAN. That is the low range of the estimate, I think. But isn't it a hugely important fact that 50 years into this system, the Department of Health and Human Services—previously the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and there is still a Children's Bureau in there way down in the system which was created by Theodore Roosevelt—the Department of Health and Human Services has never thought it interesting enough to find out what proportion of children become paupers before they are age 18. They have never found it interesting or maybe they have decided it is too dangerous to know. I think they would know how many children have polio or had polio. You know, they would find that kind of statistic.

Could I ask, is it possible that you would begin an annual report with projections—it is not a hard thing to do. I first made an estimate, I think, in 1981, and it was about 32 percent. The Bureau of the Census has given us to believe that it may be higher, probably about one-third. That is astonishing, is it not?

Ms. BARNHART. Yes, sir, I agree it is.

Senator MOYNIHAN. That one-third of the children are paupers.

Could I hope that you might prepare an annual estimate—this is not a hard thing to do, you know, this kind of estimate. It is well within the range of statistical projection—that you begin an annual series telling us what you think is happening and break it down by State as much as you can, and give us a sense of where we are getting—are things getting better, worse. Do you know what I mean?

Ms. BARNHART. I think I do understand exactly what you are asking, Senator. And what I would like to say is this, that I would like to talk to not only the research and evaluation staff at the Family Support Administration but also Assistant Secretary Gerry, Martin Gerry, at Planning and Evaluation in the Department, as well as individuals at Census and get back to you on that.

Senator MOYNIHAN. A fair response. Will you get back when you can? Will you let us know what you think about this?

Ms. BARNHART. Yes, sir, I will.

Senator MOYNIHAN. I really do think there is a rule that you are never going to get very far with social problems until you learn to measure them. And there may be other measures that are better, but I think something sums up what your life chance is. And if you could get that for us, I think we would be ahead of the game. And by the end of this decade we will know whether this legislation has begun to make any difference.

And thank you very much. And I will look forward to hearing what you and Secretary Gerry think, and the Census Bureau, and such like.

Ms. BARNHART. Thank you, Senator Moynihan.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator.

Senator Rockefeller.

Senator ROCKEFELLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one quick question.

It is extraordinary to me, almost the most stunning part of the cost of health care in this country that the difference between what happens if reasonable and—not reasonable, sufficient prenatal care is exercised through the three trimesters. And that, let's say, on an average basis, could be $500, $600, or $700, as opposed to if it is not exercised. And where there is no prenatal care the relationship between a lack of prenatal care and low birthrate babies is absolutely extraordinary.

And a low birthrate baby at Cook County General Hospital, which obviously is a public hospital, is there at about $1,300 a day is certainly going to be there for several weeks, may very well be there for a number of months. If that baby gets out of Cook County General Hospital, he or she may very well experience cognitive impairment or physical impairment. Then look at the cost to the taxpayer of taking care of that child; $500, $600, $700 for prenatal case versus $30, $40, $50, $300, $500,000 of costs for a life time. That is why everybody in this country should have access to good prenatal care, which stems from whether or not one has health insurance.

I am interested in your thoughts on that.

Ms. BARNHART. Yes, sir, Senator Rockefeller. I think that that whole issue of prenatal care in concert with the uninsured people

in this country is certainly something that is important for us to be looking at and considering. My understanding is that Secretary Sullivan has been charged with heading a work group for the President on the uninsured. And it would be my hope, from my perspective, as administrator of programs that deal with and provide benefits to low-income mothers and their children—and many of them teenage mothers who probably do not have sufficient prenatal care—to provide an important perspective in terms of the effects that we can become aware of through our program.

Senator ROCKEFELLER. And if the Secretary's group were to come out with public policy recommendations and indeed legislative recommendations that address that problem, as indeed other commissions might or have already done so, you would be pleased?

Ms. BARNHART. Well, I think certainly I would be pleased to see provisions suggested and enacted that are in keeping with our desire to help the low-income mothers provide better for their children, and at the same time balance responsibilities to other constituencies. But that is a difficult question to answer, I think, in and of itself without looking at the entire spectrum of issues in the welfare system, Senator Rockefeller.

Senator ROCKEFELLER. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

We will conclude this meeting, but I very much want to report Miss Barnhart's nomination. And I would ask that you join me immediately after the 11:00 o'clock vote on S. 221. So we will stand in recess until then. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 10:45 a.m., the hearing was concluded.]

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LISTING AND MATERIAL SUBMITTED

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JO ANNE B. BARNHART

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am extremely pleased to be here today and I am honored by the nomination of the President to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support. And, I am honored to appear before the Finance Committee to seek support for my nomination.

As I sit here, I see the Members who I have watched labor long and hard to strike a balance between meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizenry and our responsibility to the taxpayer. I also see staff people who I consider myself fortunate to count among my professional friends and associates. During the past fifteen years, I have spent a lot of time watching this committee work on the programs that I would administer at the Family Support Administration.

Mr. Chairman, I am well aware of the high priority you and the other Members of the Committee place on public assistance programs and in particular, the Family Support Act. I know that the President and Secretary Sullivan share that view. That level of commitment is personally gratifying for me as I have worked on public assistance issues as a Senate staffer for Senator Roth, and as administrator of the AFDC and Low Income Energy Assistance Programs. Most recently from my vantage point as the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Minority Staff Director I worked on the AFDC Quality Control provisions passed last year.

Upon confirmation, I hope and I intend to use this experience to, as they say, "hit the ground running." I will work to insure that States get the guidance and assistance they need in a timely and helpful fashion as they work toward full implementation of the Family Support Act; to mobilize the dedicated Federal workers at FSA to provide the necessary human resources to meet the task; and finally to provide the strong, compassionate leadership that the President, Secretary Sullivan and this Committee expect.

The Family Support Act provides a framework that mandates dramatic and important changes in the way welfare works for American's Children. It presents new challenges cast in an exciting time of change. I look forward to the opportunity to meet those challenges successfully so that we can help the families who depend on us build a better future.

BIOGRAPHY

Jo Anne B. Barnhart currently works for Senator William V. Roth as the Republican Staff Director for the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. This is Ms. Barnhart's second "tour of duty" with Senator Roth as she previously worked for him from 1977 to 1981 as a legislative assistant handling such domestic policy issues as Social Security, public assistance and low-income energy assistance. She returned to the Senate in October of 1986.

In 1988, she took a part time leave of absence from the Committee to manage Senator Roth's campaign for reelection.

From April through September 1986. Ms. Barnhart worked as a consultant at the White House on the President's welfare reform study.

From 1983 until April, 1986, Ms. Barnhart served as Associate Commissioner for Family Assistance in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As Associate Commissioner, she was responsible for the operation of the nation's largest cash assistance welfare program, AID to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) as well as the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. During her tenure as Associate Commissioner, she received the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service in

1985 and the Commissioner's Citation in 1984. Prior to being named Associate Commissioner, Ms. Barnhart served as Deputy Associate Commissioner from 1981-83.

Before going to Washington, D.C., she worked as director of the SERVE nutrition program at Wilmington Senior Center and as legislative liaison for the Mental Health Association of Delaware.

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Ms. Barnhart spent most of her life in Wilmington, Delaware and is a graduate of the University of Delaware.

She resides in Arlington, Virginia with her husband, David and their son, Niles.

Response to Question Submitted by Senator Danforth

Question. I sponsored, along with Senators Mitchell and Rockefeller, an amendment to the 1988 Welfare Reform Act: the Job Creation Demonstration. The basis for this demonstration project is a program conducted by community development corporations (CDCs) in Kansas City. The Job Creation Demonstration authorized a demonstration in which non-profit community development corporations were to receive grants to assist in job creation enterprises for those on public assistance. I understand that $3.5 million of the total authorization of $10 million will be provided for the demonstration.

What is the status of the job creation demonstration? What is the timetable for implementation?

Does the Department of Health and Human Services support this demonstration?

Answer. While the Department did not request funding for this specific program, it was one of three Family Support Act projects mentioned in the report language to the FY 90 HHS Appropriation. We will work to assure that the highest quality applications are funded, that grants under this program are properly and consistently monitored over the three year project period, and that technical assistance is provided to grantees as appropriate.

The Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Family Support Administration has responsibility for implementing the Job Creation Demonstration Program. OCS has developed a Program Announcement on this demonstration, and, consistent with your understanding, we have budgeted $3.5 million toward this effort. This document announces that competing applications will be accepted for new grants pursuant to the Secretary's discretionary authority under Section 505 of the Family Support Act of 1988; describes the types of projects that will be considered for funding; defines who is eligible; provides details on application prerequisites, funds available, limitations on grants amounts, and other application requirements; and describes the application procedures. The Program Announcement has been cleared through the Department and is undergoing review by the Office of Management and Budget after which it will be published in the Federal Register. Grants will be made in the fourth quarter of FY 1990.

(Note: Although this question for the record was related to a confirmation hearing, the answer was provided based on information I received after confirmation.)

Prepared Statement of Senator Bob Dole

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for this opportunity to support the nomination of a very capability candidate.

Jo Anne Barnhart has done an outstanding job in public policy for many years. Her experience in administering Federal assistance and social service programs will be invaluable to this administration. This is true, especially in efforts to implement reforms in the Aid to Families With Dependent Children Program, provided for in the Family Support Act of 1988, that we all worked so hard to achieve. In addition, her well known negotiating skills, will prove to be particularly worthwhile in strengthening the economic support for children of this Nation, under the Interstate Child Support Program.

Through her experience working with my distinguished colleague, Senator Roth, and as minority staff director of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Jo Anne has learned the legislative process first hand. This is another strength she will bring to this position. Having worked at the local, State and Federal levels, Jo Anne will offer a broad overview, she has the skills necessary to implement programs to obtain the education, training, and employment needed objectives, thus avoiding long-term welfare dependence for families.

I strongly urge my colleagues to favorably support this nomination.

U.S. OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS,
Washington, DC, March 15, 1990.

Hon. LLOYD BENTSEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Chairman: In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Ms. Jo Anne B. Barnhart, who has been nominated by President Bush for the position of Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

We have reviewed the report and have also obtained advice from the Department of Health and Human Services concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Based thereon, we believe that Ms. Barnhart is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

DONALD E. CAMPBELL,
Acting Director.

Enclosure.

30-301 (20)